

"CHANDANA YATRA MAHOTSAVA"

Starts every year from Akshaya Tritiya



Chandana Yatra starts on the third lunar day of the waxing moon of Vaisakha month, and continues for *twenty-one days*. Lord Jagannatha gave direct instructions to King Indradyumna to perform this festival at this time. Smearing the body of the Lord with ointments is an act of devotion, and the best of ointments is sandalwood paste. Since the month of *Vaisakha* is very hot in India, the cooling effect of the sandalwood is very pleasing to the body of the Lord. Sandalwood paste is applied all over the body of Jagannatha leaving only his two eyes visible. The *utsava murtis* (functional Deities - Vijay utsava) are taken on procession and are placed in a boat in the temple pond. To commemorate this festival, Lord Caitanya also carried out water sports with his devotees.

Akshaya Tritiya marks the beginning of the construction of the Rathas (chariots) for the ceremonial journey and sojourn of Lord Jagannatha, Balabhadra and Subhadra at the Gundicha Temple in Jagannatha Puri for a week.

History of Vesas Offered During Chandana Yatra

In 2010 the devotees kindly requested Jananivasa Prabhu, the head *pujari* in Sridham Mayapur, to explain a little about how Vesas started being offered to Radha Madhava during Chandana Yatra. This is what they shared.

Jananivasa Prabhu: I heard about this festival of offering Lord Jagannatha twenty different dresses (Vesas) during Chandana Yatra and I wanted to perform them. Then, in

2007, Narottama das, who serves in Srila Prabhupada's Pushpa Samadhi, showed me another list of dresses that he had found in a Gaudiya Math book, and inspired me to offer them to small Radha Madhava. That year, Keshavi Mataji, who designs the Deities' dresses, volunteered to make four or five dresses, of which the Gajendra Moksha dress was remarkable.

Shortly after that, I was approached by the Girl's Gurukula (Sri Anasuya Vidyamandala) who requested the service of making all of the twenty dresses by the next year. It would be incorporated in their art class, and all the girls would be able to assist in making all the dresses that are offered to Sri Sri Radha Madhava. It was a grand success with many astonishing dresses, such as the twenty-foot-long snake Aghasura with a gaping mouth, and Cupid's Chariot with galloping horses. This year, the girls have promised even better, so Chandana Yatra will be a real treat. Hare Krishna!

Pankajanghri Prabhu: The Gurukul girls' hard work and enthusiasm is very much appreciated by all the devotees, eagerly awaiting at darshan time to see what pastime dress Krishna will be wearing today. The students not only get to make the dresses, but naturally want to know about the pastimes, so they become absorbed in hearing and chanting the pastimes of the supreme Lord. You can see their devotion reflected in the dresses and the pastime paraphernalia that they have created.

May they receive more and more creativity to inspire the devotees by the grace of Lord Jagannatha.

The dresses offered to the Lord are:

- 1) *Natabara Krishna (The Best Dancer),*
- 2) *Krishna Janma (Birth of Lord Krishna),*
- 3) *Rajadhiraja (King of Kings),*
- 4) *Vana Vihari (Frolicking in the Forest),*
- 5) *Vastra Haran (Stealing of Gopis' Clothes),*
- 6) *Gomati Krishna Vesa (Mother Cow),*
- 7) *Chakra Narayana (Creator of the Universe),*
- 8) *Rasamandali Vesa (Circular Arena of the Rasa Dance),*
- 9) *Nauka Keli (Boat Pastimes),*
- 10) *Raghunatha Vesa (Lord Ramachandra),*
- 11) *Nrsimha Vesa (Nrsimha-caturdasi),*
- 12) *Khat Doli (Swing Festival),*
- 13) *Sadbhuja Gauranga (Six-armed form),*
- 14) *Kandarpa Ratha (Cupid's Chariot),*
- 15) *Giri Govardhana (Govardhana Puja),*
- 16) *Gajendra Moksha (The Deliverance of Gajendra),*
- 17) *Aghasura Vada (Deliverance of Aghasura),*
- 18) *Chintamani Krishna,*
- 19) *Giridhari (Lifting of Govardhana Hill),*
- 20) *Rasamandala Vesa (Rasa Dance),*
- 21) *Bumble Bee Vesa*

Please visit: <http://Mayapur.tv> for the ecstatic darshan of Their Lordships!



Mayapur.tv is the hub of devotional live streams, presenting many amazing and wonderful events from many countries including broadcasts from the Temples around the world - London, Los Angeles, Prabhupada TV, live coverage of Jagannatha Rathayatra's from around the world etc. Please find below the pictures from last year's "Chandana Yatra Mahotsav" at Sridham Mayapur!

Day 1 - NATABARA KRISHNA (Best Dancer)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA & ASTA-SAKHIS - NATABARA KRISHNA VESA

Sri Sri Radha Madhava, surrounded by Their Ashta-sakhis (eight principal gopi friends) — Sri Lalita, Sri Champakalata, Sri Chitra, Sri Tungavidya, Sri Vishaka, Sri Indulekha, Sri Rangadevi and Sri Sudevi, along with Gauranga Mahaprabhu and Giri-Govardhana. The small Radha Madhava Deities in the altar goes out in procession during Ratha-yatra and

other festivals like Jhulana-yatra (swing festival) or boat festival. These Deities also come out in procession on a chariot every Saturday after Sandhya-arati during winter from the beginning of the Kartika (Damodara) month till Gaura-purnima.

tara madhye hema-pitha, asta-dale vestita

*asta dale pradhana nayika
tara madhye ratnasane
basi achen dui-jane
syama sange sundari radhika*

"In the midst of the golden lotus of one hundred petals, there is a golden platform surrounded by eight petals. Situated upon those eight petals are the eight principal sakhis, headed by Lalita and Visakha. On that golden platform, the Divine Couple sit upon a jewelled throne. In the company of Lord Shyama sits the beautiful Radhika." (Sri Narottama Dasa Thakur's Prarthana)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA



SRI MADHAVA



SRI MADHAVA'S LOTUS FEET

Day 2 - KRISHNA JANMA Vesa (the Birth of Lord Krishna)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA & ASTA-SAKHIS - KRISHNA JANMA VESA

Day 3 - RAJADHIRAJA Vesa (King of Kings)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA - Rajadhiraja (King of Kings)



Day 4 - VANA VIHARI Vesa (Frolicking in the Forest)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHA - Vana Vihari Vesa (Frolicking in the Forest)

Day 5 - VASTRA HARAN Vesa (Stealing of Gopis' Clothes)





SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA - VASTRA HARAN VESA

Day 6 - GOMATI KRISHNA Vesa (Mother Cow)

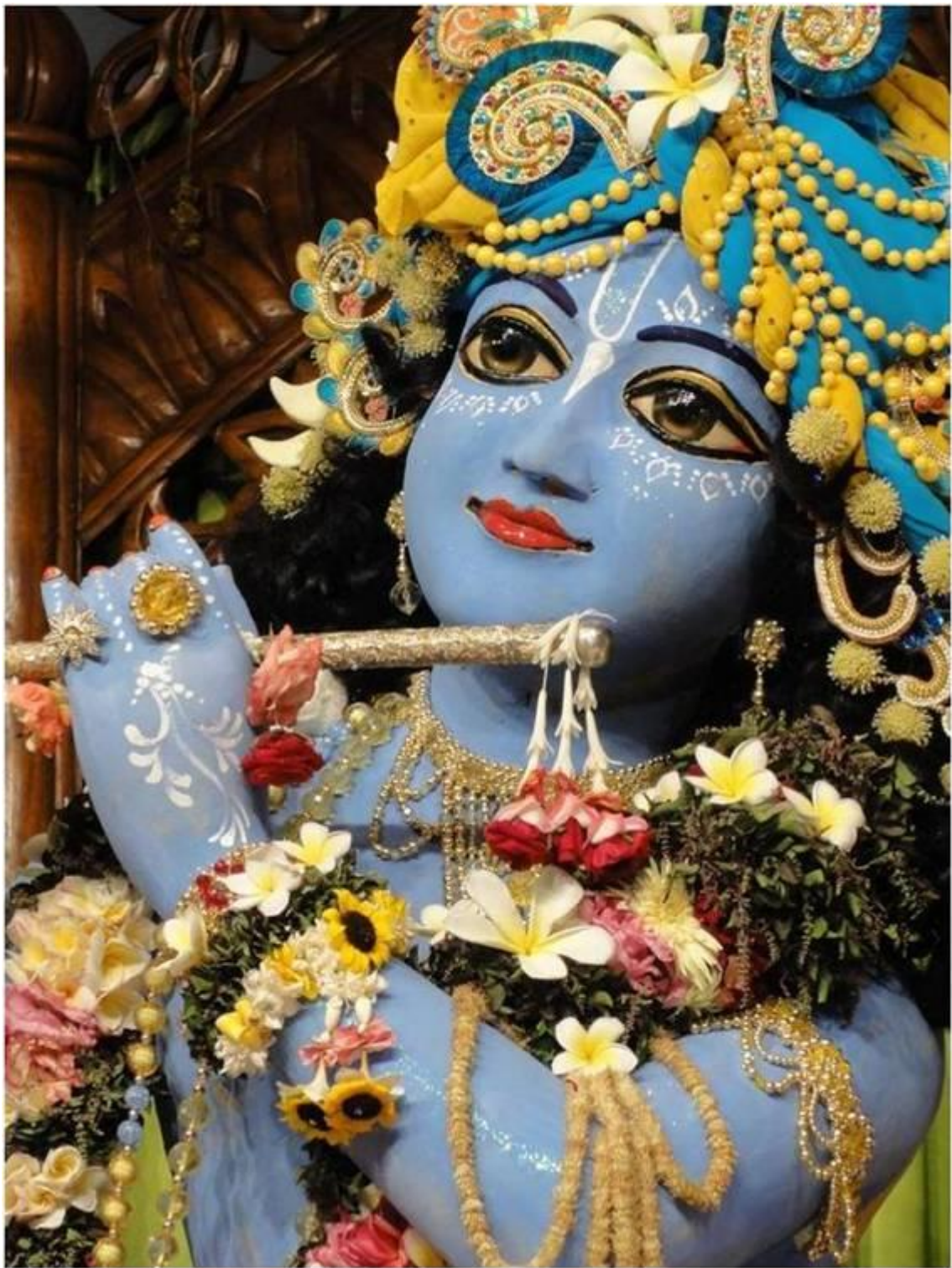


SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA - Gomat Krishna Vesa (Mother Cow)

Day 7 - CHAKRA NARAYANA Vesa (Creator of the Universe)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA & ASTA-SAKHIS - Chakra Narayana Vesa



SRI MADHAVA



SRI MADHAVA LOTUS FEET

Day 8 - RASAMANDALI Vesa (Circular Arena of the Rasa Dance)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA - Rasamandali Vesa (Circular Arena of the Rasa Dance)

Day 9 – NAUKA KELI Vesa (Boat Pastimes)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA - Nauka Keli Vesa (Boat Pastimes)

Day 10 - RAGHUNATHA Vesa (Lord Ramachandra)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA - Raghunatha Vesa (Lord Ramachandra)

Day 11 - NRSIMHADEVA Vesa (Nrsimhadeva Caturdasi)



LORD NRSIMHADEVA



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA ASTA SAKHI - Lord Nrsimhadeva Caturdasi

Day 12 - KHAT DOLI Vesa (Swing Festival)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA - Khat Doli Vesa (Swing Festival)

Day 13 - SADBHUJA GAURANGA Vesa (Six-armed form)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA - Sadbhujā Gaurāṅga Vesa (Six-armed form)

Day 14 - KANDARPA RATHA (Cupid's Chariot)

"I worship Govinda, the primeval Lord, who is adept in playing on His flute, with blooming eyes like lotus petals with head decked with peacock's feather, with the figure of beauty tinged with the hue of blue clouds, and His unique loveliness charming millions of Cupids." - Brahma Samhita 5.30

Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport to the above verse of Brahma Samhita, describing the matchless beauty of Krishna. "What Brahma saw in his ecstatic trance of pure devotion, is being described. Krishna is engaged in playing upon His flute. That flute by his enchanting musical sound attracts the hearts of all living beings. Just as a lotus petal produces a pleasant sight, so the two beautiful eyes of Krishna who causes the manifestation of our spiritual vision, display the unlimited splendour and beauty of His

moonlike face. The loveliness that adorns His head with peacock feather figures, the corresponding feature of the spiritual beauty of Krishna. Just as a mass of blue clouds offers a specifically soothing, pleasant view, the complexion of Krishna is analogously tinged with a spiritual dark-blue color. The beauty and loveliness of Krishna is far more enchanting that of Cupid multiplied a million fold."



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA - Kandarpa Ratha (Cupid's Chariot)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA



SRI MADHAVA LOTUS FEET

Day 15 - GIRI GOVARDHANA Vesa (Govardhana Puja)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA - Giri Govardhana (Govardhana Puja)

Day 16 - GAJENDRA MOKSHA Vesa (The Deliverance of Gajendra)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAV - Gajendra Moksha (The Deliverance of Gajendra)

Day 17 - AGHASURA VADA Vesa (Deliverance of Aghasura)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAV - Aghasura Vada (Deliverance of Aghasura)

Day 18 - CHINTAMANI KRISHNA Vesa

Nectarean amorous pastimes of Sri Sri Radha & Krishna standing near shore of Yamuna decorated with golden pavements standing with their beautiful ornaments

"The supreme abode of the Personality of Godhead, Krishna, is described in the Brahma Samhita as *cintamani-dhama*, a place where all desires are fulfilled. The supreme abode of Lord Krishna known as Goloka Vrindavana is full of palaces made of touchstone. There are also trees which are called "desire trees" that supply any type of eatable upon demand, and there are cows known as Surabhi cows which supply a limitless supply of milk. In this abode the Lord is served by hundreds of thousands of goddesses of fortune (Lakshmis), and He is called Govinda, the primal Lord and the cause of all causes. The Lord is accustomed to

blow His flute (*venum kvanantam*). His transcendental form is the most attractive in all the worlds — His eyes are like the lotus petals and the color of His body like clouds. He is so attractive that His beauty excels that of thousands of cupids."



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA - Chintamani Krishna Vesa

Day 19 – GIRIDHARI Vesa (Lifting of Govardhana Hill)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA - Giridhari (Lifting of Govardhana Hill)

Day 20 - Rasamandala Vesa (Rasa Dance)



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA - Rasamandala Vesa (Rasa Dance)

Day 21 - Bumble Bee Vesa



SRI SRI RADHA-MADHAVA - Bumble Bee Vesa







**HIS DIVINE GRACE A.C. BHAKTIVEDANTA SWAMI SRILA PRABHUPADA,
FOUNDER-ACARYA OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS
(ISKCON)**

Mayapur TV Daily Schedule India-time (GMT+5:30hrs):

4:30am-5:15am	Mangala Arati (camera attended)
5:15am-7am	Live Bhajans from Srila Prabhupada's 24-hour Bhajan Kutir
7am-8am	Morning Darshan & Arati of Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha-Madhava, Sri Pancha-Tattva, Lord Nrsimhadeva, Guru Puja (camera attended)
8am-8:45am	Srimad-Bhagavatam class (camera attended)
8:45am-10am	Live Bhajans from Srila Prabhupada's 24-hour Bhajan Kutir
10am-12pm	Live Bhajans from Sri Mayapur Chandodaya Temple
12pm-1pm	Bhoga Arati (camera attended)
1pm-4pm	Live Bhajans from Srila Prabhupada's 24-hour Bhajan Kutir
4pm-5:45pm	Live Bhajans from Sri Mayapur Chandodaya Temple
5:45pm-8:30pm	Gaura-Arati & temple programmes (camera attended)
8:30pm-4:30pm	Live Bhajans from Srila Prabhupada's 24-hour Bhajan Kutir

MAYAPUR TV: <http://Mayapur.tv>

VRINDAVANA TV: <http://vrindavan.tv/>

**HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE |
HARE RAMA HARE RAMA RAMA RAMA HARE HARE ||**